

JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*"Keeping the history of Lake Wallenpaupack alive
and accessible for present and future generations"*



Wallenpaupack Historical Society's Upcoming Membership Meeting

- January 21, 1:00 p.m., the PPL ELC -

Membership election of board of directors and officers, and approval of the yearly budget.

2015 slate of directors, approved on December 17th

Robert Essex, President
Kristen Brown, Vice-President
Jon Tandy, Secretary
Donna Stuccio, Treasurer
Andy Anderson
Robert Ammon
Richard Briden
Donal Coutts, Director Emeritus
Audrey Graybill
Nancy Gumble
Rolf Moeller
Gert Schleiker
Bruce Taylor
Anthony Waldron
Ann Wiedenman

2015 Program Refreshment Committee

January - Nancy Gumble and Bob Essex
February - Bruce Taylor
March - Audrey Graybill
April - Gert Schleiker and Ann Wiedenman
May - Spring Dinner
June - Annual Picnic
July - Saturday Evening Program
August - Bea Martin and Kristen Brown
September - Annual Awards Dinner
October - Barbara Briden
November - Rolf Moeller
December - Holiday Party

Thank You, WAHS Chamber and Show Choirs

Thank you to Mrs Neenan and the High School Chamber Choir and Show Choir for their performing, during their usual lunch time, at the December holiday party. The Chamber Choir gave a beautiful, professional a cappella concert and the Show Choir excelled at choreographed show tunes.





2014 Quilt Raffle Winner

Dan Gelderman of Hawley accepted his prize from Dick Briden in December. Mr Gelderman was happy to win the quilt after many years of buying raffle tickets.

Thank you to Friends with a Heart for donating the quilt and selling tickets during the Hawley festivals.



The following history is reprinted, source :
Palmyra Township, Pike County, A History by Donal S. Coutts, published by
 Wallenpaupack Historical Society, 2007, page 101.

History of the Paupack School, Palmyra Township, Pike County

Paupack Consolidated School

By the year 1924, Palmyra Township's one-room schools were no longer functional. Many had already been closed, for a variety of reasons; Cromwelltown, White, Shiny Mountain, Crosses and Sievers. The two remaining open, Tafton and Red, were both scheduled for demolition because they would soon be engulfed by the waters of Lake Wallenpaupack. Enumeration made August 7, 1922, showed there were two teachers in Palmyra Township and 66 children of school age, six to 16. Surely it was now time to build a centrally located schoolhouse sufficient to accommodate all the students in the township under one roof. Reusing the desks, books and other usable items from the one-room schoolhouses, in September 1925 the newly constructed consolidated school located in Paupack was opened. School board and committee members responsible for the new schoolhouse were Fred Singer, Marguerite Ansley, Theodore Schmied, Eunice Slocum, Claude Seeley, George Coutts, Walter Vetterlein and Harvey Dexter.

Upon completion of both the dike at Tafton and the dam at Wilsonville, the river became trapped behind those barriers and the lake quickly began to fill. For the next several years, the Paupack Consolidated School overlooked a large expanse of the picturesque Lake Wallenpaupack, giving it one of the most beautiful scenic views to be found anywhere. With much of the valley pasture land deserted, native trees of pine, hemlock, oak, maple, birch and ash took seed and eventually grew to a significant height, obstructing the gorgeous view.

The schoolhouse was built on the 2.59 acre parcel of land, which was lawfully conveyed from Pennsylvania Realty Investment Company to Palmyra Township School District, on the third day of August 1925, for \$1.00, as recorded in Deed Book 78, page 56. The Paupack School contained two class-rooms with a pupil capacity of 80, total first year enrollment, 41. Cost of the building \$13, 189.00.

There had been an exciting expansion of the elementary school curriculum during the preceding 150 years from 1775 to 1925. This expansion evolved from the traditional "Three R's" to a much more complex program of activities, as reported in the School Directory of Pike County, 1932-1933:

1775---Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic, Bible.

1825---Grammar, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic, Conduct, Bookkeeping, Geography.

1850---History, Language & Grammar, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic, Conduct, Bookkeeping, Geography, Object Lessons.

1875---Drawing, Civics, History, Language & Grammar, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic, Conduct, Nature Study, Geography, Music, Physical Exercise.

1925---Physiology, Literature, Drawing, Civics, History, Language & Grammar, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic, Health-Hygiene, Nature Study, Geography, Music, Physical Training, Sewing

When the Paupack School first opened in 1925, it was heated with large coal-burning potbellied stoves, one standing majestically in a corner of each room. As a young student, Robert Coutts remembered students would gather around those heaters on the coldest winter mornings while preparing their lessons and attempting to warm up at the same time. Drinking water was carried in by the pail full. Two outhouses, or privies, with the standard crescent moon carved in the doors, stood conveniently behind the building. The one amenity most missed by students and teachers alike was the traditional school bell, which had been replaced by a modern electric buzzer used to call the children back to their respective classrooms.

The year 1937 saw modernization of a different kind . . . A deep well was drilled by Walter Schoenagel of Greentown, thus providing running water and indoor plumbing. A drinking fountain in each room provided a fresh, instant supply of cold drinking water. The basement area was renovated, and a hand-fired coal steam furnace was installed replacing the potbellied stoves. In extremely cold weather, the large cast-iron radiators, which extended along the outside walls in both rooms, emitted a joyous tune of snapping, popping and hissing, as the hot steam traveled from one to the next.

Wet jackets and soaked mittens were dried on those monstrous convectors. Shallow copper pans filled with water were placed on top of the radiators supplying a source of humidity; they also provided a great place for the students to heat jars of soup for their winter-time lunch.

The stage was large enough to facilitate the growing number of students during the several performances and exercises throughout the year. When not in use as a stage, it doubled as a quiet library area where concentration was more profound. It was this use that was most appreciated by the older students who were seriously preparing for their eighth-grade examination, given each year by the Superintendent of Schools.

Class sizes were often measured by quality rather than quantity as depicted in the school term beginning in 1941, when the only two children enrolled in the first grade were the Singer twins, Shirley and Charlotte. Even at that, it took some time for their teacher, Mrs Kroll, to tell one from the other.

In 1941, Pennsylvania's Governor James signed Senate Bill #642 which provided that the minimum salary of \$1,000 per year be paid to elementary grade teachers in fourth-class districts. Also that same year Dr Owens of Hawley was appointed by the school board to test the teachers and children for tuberculosis, in accordance to House Act #231. (Continued next issue, February)

Paupack School, 1936 Grades 5 - 8

Left Row :

Claude Seeley
Eugenia Gumble
Christine Macdonald
Janet Ansley
Harry Dix
Jeanette Reid
Harold Gumble
Albert Coutts
Dorothy Heberling
(teacher)

Middle Row :

Carl Cerine
Fred Singer
Ursula Cerine
Jeanne Gumble
Paul Buehler
Meta Buehler
_____ DeGroat
Beulah Seeley
Allan Masker

Right Row :

Harold Coutts
Mary Dirk
Robert Coutts
Mable DeGroat
Richard Guccini
Winifred Singer
Carol Singer
Fred Thek
William Reid
Dorothy Engel
(playground supervisor)



*Wallenpaupack
Historical Society
Incorporated*

OFFICERS

*Rolf Moeller, President
Robert Morgan, Vice-President
Jon Tandy, Secretary
Donna Stuccio, Treasurer*

DIRECTORS

*Arnold T. Anderson
Robert Ammon
C. Richard Briden
Kristen Brown, Newsletter Editor
Donal Coutts, Director Emeritus
Robert Essex
Audrey Graybill
Nancy Gumble
James Pellington
Bruce Taylor
R. Anthony Waldron
Ann Wiedenman*

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www.WallenpaupackHistorical.org

Wreaths Across America Honor All Graves at Arlington with a Christmas Wreath

The Maine-based non-profit organization *Wreaths Across America* upholds the mission to “Remember, Honor, Teach” which is “carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies for a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans’ cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. We also organize a week of events including international veterans’ tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long ‘Veteran’s Parade’ between Maine and Virginia where we stop along the way to spread our message about the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.” See more at: www.wreathscrossamerica.org.



Wreaths Across America celebrated placing its two-millionth wreath this Christmas. The grave of Civil War Veteran Pvt William Christman of Tobyhanna Township, the first soldier buried at Arlington, was honored with the two-millionth wreath.

Wallenpaupack Historical Society Membership

Membership benefits include a monthly newsletter, special notices of upcoming programs of interest, and the right to vote in the corporation. Memberships are for the calendar year. New membership applications received in the final three months of the fiscal year (October, November and December) are automatically extended until the end of December in the following year.

Please complete the following form and mail with your payment, payable to Wallenpaupack Historical Society, to:
Wallenpaupack Historical Society
P.O. Box 345
Paupack, PA 18451

Student \$5.00 Individual \$15.00 Family \$25.00 Corporate \$50.00

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Phone:

E-mail:

Please check here if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter via email instead of U.S. Mail.



For student membership only -
Name of school, college or university: